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Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Morocco:* draft resolution

Programme of Action for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/197 of 15 December 1998, in which it proclaimed 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit and requested that the observance of the Year be a special occasion, for giving impetus to microcredit programmes in all countries, particularly in the developing countries,

Recalling also its resolution 52/194 of 18 December 1997, in which it emphasizes the role of microcredit as an important anti-poverty tool that promotes production and self-employment and empowers people living in poverty, especially women,

Stressing that people living in poverty need access to a range of financial tools, in particular credit, that enhance their ability to increase income, build assets and mitigate vulnerability in times of hardship,

Recognizing the need to facilitate the access of people living in poverty to microcredit to enable them to undertake microenterprises so as to generate self-employment and contribute to achieving empowerment, especially women,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General containing the draft programme of action for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005;[1]

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] A/58/179.

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2. *Emphasizes* that the observance of the year 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit will provide a significant opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of microcredit in the eradication of poverty, to share good practices and to further enhance programmes that support sustainable pro-poor financial sectors in all countries;

3. *Invites* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Capital Development Fund to jointly coordinate the activities of the United Nations system regarding the preparation and observance of the Year;

4. *Invites* Member States to consider establishing national coordinating committees or focal points with responsibility for promoting the activities related to the preparation and observance of the Year;

5. *Also invites* Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society to collaborate in the preparation and observance of the Year and to raise public awareness and knowledge about microcredit, its role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the ways in which it can empower people and contribute to the development of communities in a sustainable manner;

6. *Encourages* the holding of regional and subregional events on microcredit and, in this regard, welcomes the holding of the Asia-Pacific Region Microcredit Summit Meeting of Councils, to be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in February 2004;

7. *Encourages* Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and foundations to make voluntary contributions and to lend other forms of support to the Year, in accordance with the guidelines for international years;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the preparation of the International Year of Microcredit, 2005, in consultation with Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".